

## **GWOT Archive Project**

Oct 05 – At the DAHACC, RMDA says that they have not received any records from units deployed to Afghanistan & Iraq. We realize that the records our MHDs have collected may be the Army's only documentation of the war.

Jan 06 – We received approval to have a computer in the SCIF to open up the classified CDs and external hard drives the Center had received from the MHDs

13 Aug 06 – A second work station and a machine to make backup tapes of the external hard drives to insure the GWOT data is not lost if the hard drives malfunctioned. The branch's two archivists were spending 10 % of their time on GWOT.

- CMH collection effort began in 2001 with oral interviews of HQDA personnel following 9/11 attack on Pentagon
- To date, eight MHDs have deployed to Afghanistan and twenty-three to Iraq.
- In addition to MHD efforts, some units have also submitted material to CMH (1st ID, 1st BCT, 1st AD, 42nd ID, and 116th BCT).
- January 2006, received temporary approval for standalone computers in the SCIF, 1<sup>st</sup> computer installed, initial review of MHD external hard drives began but there was no means to make backup tapes or a server to download the data too.
- August – September 2006, adhoc server created by linking six 1-TB hard drives to a computer and 2<sup>nd</sup> computer work station created. And tape back up machine purchased and first external hard drives were backed up on tape.
- December 2006, directive from Dr. Shortal that branch's 2 archivists would spend 80% of their work week focused on the GWOT collection.

GWOT collection as of 7 Dec 2006:

2.3 Terabytes of electronic files on external hard drives

1.5 Terabytes on CD/DVD/zip drives

63 Video tapes (VHS & Beta)

159 linear feet of paper documents and oral history files. (Transcripts, CD or audio cassette. Approximately 2,500 + OEF/OIF oral history interviews)

25 floppy disks

55 cubic feet of original records (paper) from 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne G-3, Sep 01 –

Dec 05

10 Tubes of maps/overlays

- Archiving effort started in January 2007
  - Detailed assessment of GWOT records began in April 2007
  - May 2007, all OEF and OIF 1 through 04-06 records downloaded totaling 4.5 TB of data.
  - RMDA proposal for “joint” site visits during CY 2007 initiated in July
  - Currently focused on “closing gaps” in material collected by MHDs
  - With exception of initial ground campaign (2003), initial assessment completed for OIF; assessment of Afghanistan material ongoing
  - CMH’s CY 2007 collection effort based on “gaps” identified during assessment of on-hand OIF material
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- Recognize that GWOT records collection and assessment process is ongoing
    - Assess new material captured from deploying units
    - Refine gaps and continue and expand search
    - Add in records collection by other organizations (NGB, RAND, CSI, MHI)
  - Enhance Existing Collection Methods: Assess and refine MHD training to ensure they gather material for comprehensive narrative account of historically significant events
  - Explore Alternative Methods: In addition to site visits, CMH can provide means (loaned hard drives) for follow-on collection efforts by MACOM/Unit historians

May 2008: Download of OIF 05-07 and 06-08 data completed, MHD data collection now at 9 TB.

May 15, 2008, data-mining contract with SAIC at Ft. Lewis Stryker Battle Command and Training Center signed. First 100GB received 15 July, pending backup and uploading before evaluation.

Currently FPR has 8.5 Terabytes of GWOT data on its SCIF server. (includes Smith effort plus Andrade and Epley collections)

We are expecting to receive an additional 4 TB from the 5 returning MHDs in the next 30-60 days, plus .5 TB every 6 months from data-mining and LTC Smith.